

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 and 33-34 are currently pending. Claims 1-2, 10, 12-14, 16, 25-26, 29-30, and 33 have been amended. Claim 32 has been cancelled. Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 10-11, 25, 29-31, and 33-34 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 10, 25, 29-30, and 33 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, claims 10, 25, 29-30, and 33 are in a condition for allowance. In addition, claim 11 depends from claim 10, claim 31 depends from claim 30, and claim 34 depends from claim 33. Thus, claims 11, 31, and 34 are also in a condition for allowance.

The Examiner objected to the specification for allegedly failing to provide antecedent basis for the phrase "the first and second distal edge." Applicants have amended claims 2 and 16 to replace "distal edge" with "distal surface." In addition, the specification has been amended to more clearly indicate that the first housing portion includes the first distal surface and the second housing portion includes the second distal surface. Applicants have also amended the specification to correct a typographical error which applied the reference number "130" to the distal surfaces, rather than the proper reference number "122."

The Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failing to provide antecedent basis for the phrase "the support member." Applicants have amended claims 12 and 13 to correct for the lack of antecedent basis.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McDonald (U.S. Patent No. 4,603,273).

Claim 1 defines an electric machine that includes, among other things, a fastener that couples at least one of the first and second intermediate portions and extends through the first and second end caps.

McDonald does not teach or suggest, among other things, an electric machine that includes a fastener that couples at least one of the first and second intermediate portions and extends through the first and second end caps. Rather, McDonald discloses a dynamoelectric machine that includes a stator 10. End bells 26 and 28 define apertures 30 and 32 and form a loose interference fit around the stator 10. Bearing modules 42 and 44 fit within apertures 30 and 32 to support a rotor 14 for rotation. The Examiner identifies two unnumbered components from Fig. 7 as being analogous to the end caps recited in claim 1. In addition, the Examiner identifies the cleat 24 as being analogous to the recited fastener. However, the cleat 24 does not extend through either end cap, much less through both end caps. In fact, McDonald makes no mention of how the unnumbered components are attached to the bearing modules.

In light of the foregoing, McDonald does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1. As such, claim 1 is allowable. In addition, claims 2-9 and 12-13, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for these and other reasons.

The Examiner rejected claims 14-24, 26-28 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald.

Amended claim 14 defines an electric machine assembly that includes, among other things, a first housing portion that partially covers the generally cylindrical surface of the stator. The first housing portion includes a first tab disposed adjacent to the first end of the stator that projects from a first housing interior. A second housing portion partially covers the

generally cylindrical surface of the stator. The second housing portion includes a second tab disposed adjacent to the second end of the stator that projects from a second housing interior.

McDonald does not teach or suggest, among other things, a first tab disposed adjacent the first end of the stator that projects from a first housing interior and a second tab disposed adjacent the second end of the stator that projects from a second housing interior. Rather, McDonald discloses an electric machine that includes a tab 40 that extends from the exterior of the end bell 28. The tab does not extend from an interior as recited in claim 14. In addition, there is no mention of a second tab extending from the end bell 26.

In light of the foregoing, McDonald does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 14. As such, claim 14 is allowable. In addition, claims 15-24 depend from claim 14 and are allowable for these and other reasons.

Amended claim 26 defines a method of assembling an electric machine that includes, among other things, fitting a first housing portion over the stator. The first housing portion includes a first tab that extends from a first housing interior. The first fitting act includes partially covering the generally cylindrical surface with the first housing portion and disposing the first tab adjacent the first end of the stator. The method also includes fitting a second housing portion over the stator. The second housing portion includes a second tab that extends from a second housing interior. The second fitting act includes partially covering the generally cylindrical surface with the second housing portion and disposing the second tab adjacent the second end of the stator.

McDonald does not teach or suggest, among other things, a first tab disposed adjacent the first end of the stator that extends from a first housing interior and a second tab disposed adjacent the second end of the stator that extends from a second housing interior. As

discussed with regard to claim 14, McDonald discloses an electric machine that includes a tab 40 that extends from the exterior of the end bell 28. The tab does not extend from an interior as recited in claim 26.

In light of the foregoing, McDonald does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 26. As such, claim 26 is allowable. In addition, claims 27-28 depend from claim 26 and are allowable for these and other reasons.

The Examiner objected to claim 32 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 27. Applicants have cancelled claim 32 rendering this objection moot.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-31 and 33-34 are allowable.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Th J Otterlee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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